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ABSTRACT

The population studied is the group of 2,329 students who entered SUNY/Buffalo as full-time freshmen in the fall of 1974; 89 percent are represented in the study. Data are reported on: major distribution, by both sex and total numbers; certainty of major choice; factors influencing choice of major; academic degree expectations, by program (equal opportunity versus regular admission), sex, and discipline; career choice; certainty of career choice; and reasons for career choice. (MSE)

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college student perceptions

1974 FRESHMEN

DEGREE, MAJOR AND CAREER PLANS

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STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
BUFFALO

Student Testing and Research
Division of Student Affairs

COLLEGE STUDENT PERCEPTIONS

1974 FRESHMEN

Degree, Major and Career Plans

Mary Ann Edwards

Student Testing and Research
Division of Student Affairs
State University of New York at Buffalo

November 1976

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FOREWORD

One of the main functions of Student Testing and Research, an Office in the Division of Student Affairs of the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNY/B), is to provide information regarding the personal and professional goals of SUNY/B students.[1]

In order to understand students better and to assess the University's impact on their lives, Student Testing and Research collects information from freshmen prior to their initial registration. Nearly all freshmen complete the COLLEGE STUDENT PERCEPTIONS SURVEY, originally developed in 1973.

This report is based on data collected from 1974 freshmen concerning degree expectations, major field choices, and career plans.

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[1] A list of reports of this research, with a brief description of their contents, is available upon request from Student Testing and Research, 316 Harriman Library, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York 14214.

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CHAPTER I

PROCEDURE

The population of interest in this study is the group of 2,329 students who entered the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNY/B) as full-time freshmen in the fall of 1974.

THE SAMPLE

All students expecting to enter SUNY/B as freshmen in the fall of 1974 were invited to attend a conference of the Summer Orientation Program. The program, consisting of twelve 2 1/2 day conferences conducted during July and August of 1974, was attended by 2,127 students. Ninety-seven percent of these students, 2070, completed the COLLEGE STUDENT PERCEPTIONS SURVEY, and constitute the sample upon which this report is based.

Two admission groups are of concern in this study: freshmen entering the University through standard admission procedures, Regular Admission Students (RA), and students who were admitted through the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). The Educational Opportunity Program was initiated in 1968 to give special educational opportunities to students with academic deficiencies related to social and economic conditions.

The sample constitutes 89 percent of the 1974 incoming freshmen class and is representative of this population relative to distribution of both admission program and sex (Table 1.1).

Table 1.1 POPULATION AND SAMPLE,
by Admission Group and Sex

	1974 Freshman Class[1]		Sample		% of 1974 Class Constituting the Sample
	N	%	N	%	
RA	2101	90	1838	89	87
EOP	228	10	232	11*	102*
Men	1320	57	1147	55	87
Women	1009	43	923	45	91
Total	2329		2070		89

The ratio of the number of regular admission students to the number of Educational Opportunity Program students is 89 to 11 in the sample and 90 to 10 in the population. The male-female ratio in the sample, 55-45, is similar to that of the population, 57-43.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The 1974 COLLEGE STUDENT PERCEPTIONS SURVEY (CSPS) consists of 308 questions and is organized into the following sections: High School Experiences, College Expectations, Degree Plans, Major Field and Career Plans, Interests, Interpersonal Relationships, Family and Self. This report is based on the students' responses to 38 questions from the sections concerning degree expectations and major field and career plans.

[1] Data from the Office of Admissions and Records.

* More EOP students attended the Summer Orientation Program Conferences than registered for the fall semester.

DATA ANALYSIS

Responses to items of the CSPS were examined for differences between the responses of regular admission and EOP students and between those of men and women. Responses were also examined for differences among the Faculties in which these students expected to choose their major field. Questions answered on a continuum were analyzed by *t* tests and differences that were significant at the .01 probability level are stated as such in all cases. In some tables, columns of percents may not add to 100 due to rounding error.

DATA PRESENTATION

In this report, the terms *students, freshmen, sample and respondents* are used interchangeably and refer to the 2070 incoming freshmen who completed the 1974 COLLEGE STUDENT PERCEPTIONS SURVEY. The word Faculty refers to one of the six academic Faculties of SUNY/B or the School of Management. For convenience in this report, the School of Management is also referred to as a Faculty. For this report, the majors included in the Faculty of Educational Studies are: Business Education, Elementary Education, Physical Education, and Science Education. Majors in Art and Music Education are included in the Faculty of Arts and Letters; Health Science Education majors are included in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

The following symbols and abbreviations are used in the tables:

EOP	Educational Opportunity Program
RA	Regular Admissions
N	Number of Cases
%	Percent
S.D.	Standard Deviation
<1	Less than one percent.

CHAPTER II

MAJOR FIELD CHOICE

Students were asked to indicate their major field choice, and what influenced their choice. They also specified the degree of their certainty that they would keep that major.

FACULTY DISTRIBUTION OF MAJOR FIELD CHOICES

The freshmen indicated from a list of 46 academic major fields the field they were most likely to choose as their undergraduate major.[1] These choices were later grouped according to their undergraduate Faculty affiliation.

The major field choices were unevenly distributed among the seven undergraduate Faculties (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1 FACULTY DISTRIBUTION OF MAJOR FIELD CHOICES

FACULTY	N	%
Health Sciences	479	23
Natural Sciences and Mathematics	425	21
Engineering and Applied Sciences	283	14
Social Sciences and Administration	278	13
Arts and Letters	162	8
School of Management	158	8
Educational Studies	17	1
Special	13	1
Undecided	210	10
No Response	45	2

[1] Majors by department are presented in Table A.1 in the Appendix.

The largest percentage of students (23%) chose majors in the Faculty of Health Sciences. The departments within that Faculty that attracted the greatest number of students were Physical Therapy (114 students), Nursing (93 students) and Pharmacy (88 students).[1] A fifth of the freshmen chose majors in Natural Sciences and Mathematics with a majority (262 students, 21%) of these respondents majoring in Biology. Engineering and Applied Sciences was the choice of 14 percent of the students; Social Sciences and Administration was selected by 13 percent. The largest groups in the latter Faculty were those majoring in Political Science (98 students) and Psychology (67 students). The 8 percent of the sample who chose majors in the Faculty of Arts and Letters were distributed primarily among Art (34 students), Music (32 students), English (29 students), and Architecture and Enviornmental Design (27 students). Majors in the School of Management were selected by 8 percent, and in the Faculty of Educational Studies[2] by one percent of the freshmen. Ten percent of the students were undecided as to their major and 2 percent did not respond to the question.

Admission Group

The admission groups were similar in their choices of majors in four of the seven Faculties and the Special major category (Figure 2.1). They differed in majors represented by three Faculties. A greater proportion of EOP than RA students chose majors in the Faculty of Health Sciences (EOP 32%, RA 22%). A larger proportion of RA than EOP students chose majors in the Faculties of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (RA 22%, EOP 7%) and Engineering (RA 15%, EOP 5%).

Nearly half of the regular admission students chose majors in Health Sciences (22%) or Natural Sciences and Mathematics (22%). Fifteen percent of the RA students expected majors in Engineering and Applied Sciences, 13 percent in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Administration, 8 percent in the Faculty of Arts and Letters, 7 percent in Management, one percent in Educational Studies and one percent in Specialized areas. Ten percent of the RA group were undecided and 2 percent gave no response.

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[1] Majors by department are reported in Table A.1 in the Appendix.

[2] See reference to Faculty in Chapter I, Presentation of Data.

Figure 2.1 FACULTY DISTRIBUTION OF MAJOR FIELD CHOICES BY ADMISSION GROUP

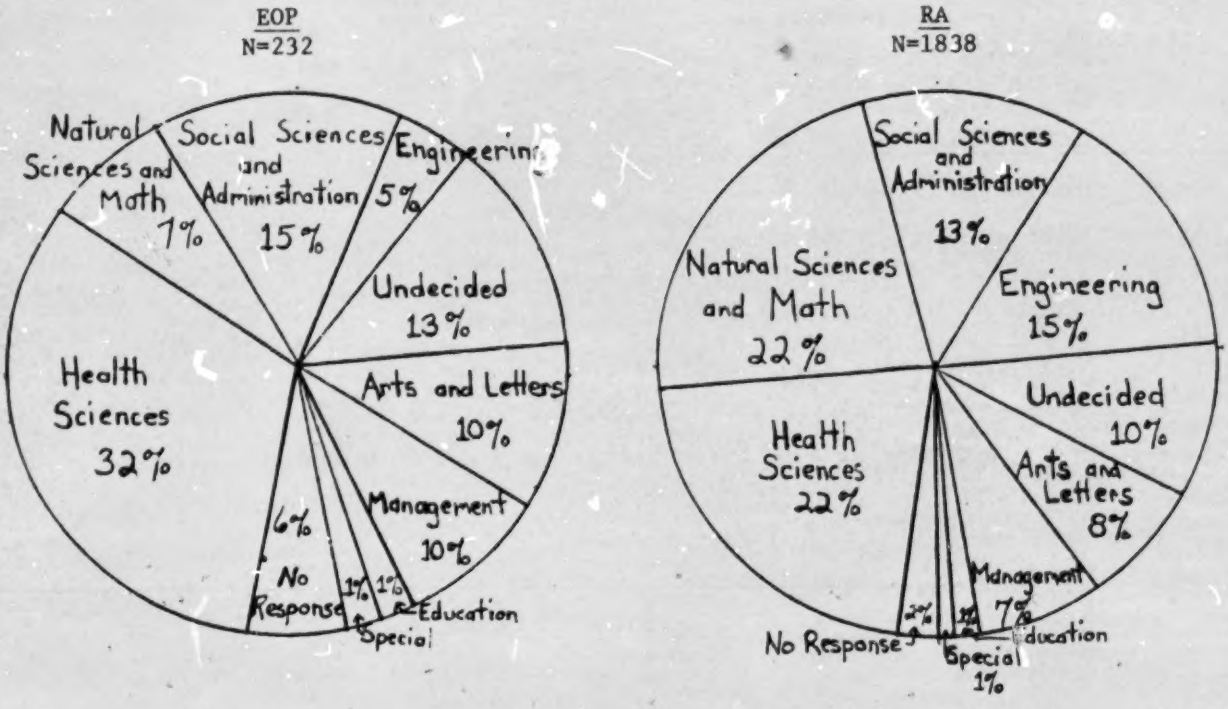
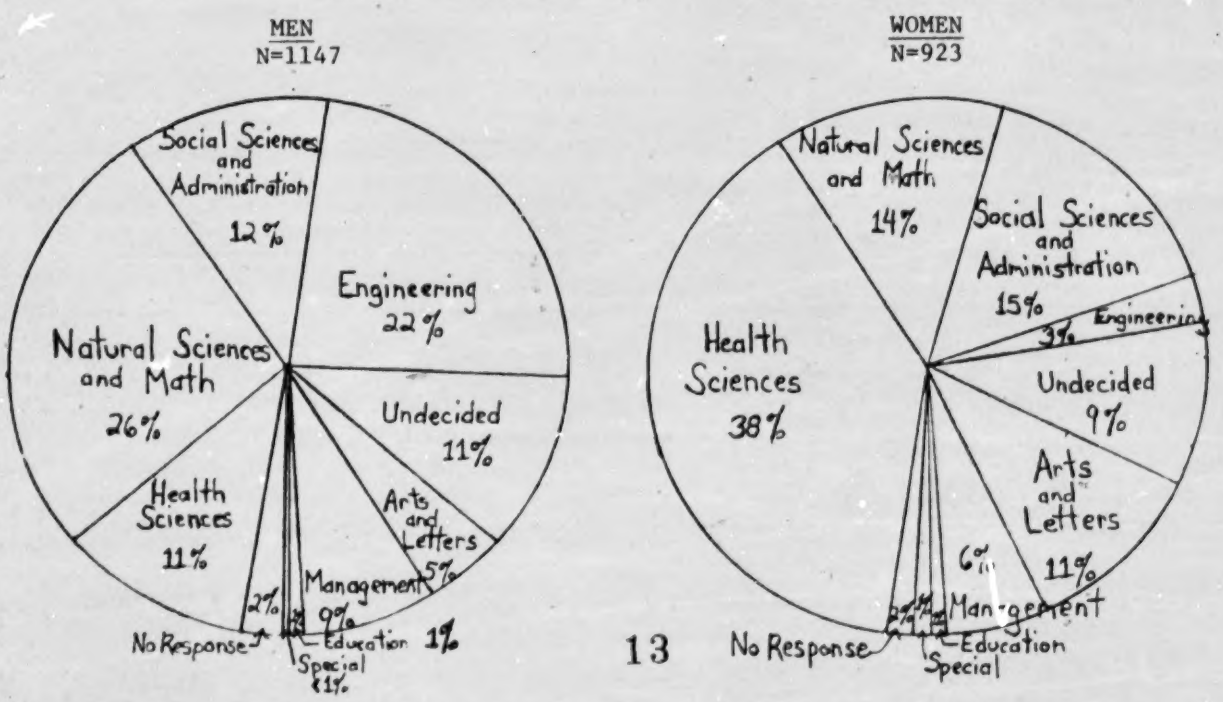


Figure 2.2 FACULTY DISTRIBUTION OF MAJOR FIELD CHOICES BY SEX



Refer to Table A.1 in the Appendix for more complete data.

Health Sciences was the Faculty most often chosen by students in the Educational Opportunity Program (32%). The next most popular majors of EOP students were in the Faculties of Social Sciences and Administration (15%), Arts and Letters (10%) and Management (10%). Majors in the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics were chosen by 7 percent, and majors in Engineering and Applied Sciences by 5 percent of the EOP students. One percent specified majors in the Faculty of Educational Studies. Thirteen percent of the EOP freshmen were undecided about their major and 6 percent did not respond to the item.

Sex

The major field choices of men and women were distributed differently among the Faculties (Figure 2.2). A greater proportion of men than women chose majors in the Faculties of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (26% men, 14% women) and Engineering (22% men, 3% women). A larger proportion of women than men chose majors in Health Sciences (38% women, 11% men) and Arts and Letters (11% women, 5% men).

Nearly half of the men selected majors in the Faculties of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (26%) and Engineering and Applied Sciences (22%). Twelve percent of the men expected to have majors in the Faculties of Social Sciences and Administration, 11 percent in Health Sciences, 9 percent in the School of Management, 5 percent in Arts and Letters, and one percent in Educational Studies. Fewer than one percent chose Specialized majors.

The Faculty of Health Sciences attracted the largest percentage of freshmen women (38%). The next most popular Faculties were Social Sciences and Administration (15%), Natural Sciences and Mathematics (14%), and Arts and Letters (11%). The School of Management was selected by 6 percent of the women and Engineering and Applied Science by 3 percent. Educational Studies and Specialized Majors were each chosen by one percent of the women in the sample.

Eleven percent of the men and 9 percent of the women were undecided as to their major and 2 percent of the men and of the women gave no response to the question.

CERTAINTY OF CHOICE

The freshmen who specified a major were asked to indicate on a four-point scale how certain they were that they would keep their major field choice. Options ranged from *very uncertain* to *very certain*.

Table 2.2 DEGREE OF CERTAINTY OF KEEPING MAJOR CHOICE, by Admission Group and Sex

DEGREE OF CERTAINTY	ADMISSION GROUP		SEX		TOTAL
	RA N=1838	EOP N=232	Men N=1147	Women N=923	N=2070
Very Uncertain	7%	6%	7%	7%	7%
Somewhat Uncertain	22	16	23	19	21
Quite Certain	41	25	37	42	39
Very Certain	16	24	16	19	17
No Response	14	29	18	14	16

Slightly over half of the group were either *very certain* (17%) or *quite certain* (39%) of their choices (Table 2.2). A fifth of the freshmen were *somewhat uncertain* and a few (7%), *very uncertain* whether they would keep their major. Sixteen percent of the students did not respond to the question; this included the ten percent who had not indicated a major.

Admission Group

Sixteen percent of the RA students were *very certain* about their major choice and 41 percent were *quite certain*. One quarter of the EOP students felt *very certain*, and one-quarter felt *quite certain* about their choice of major.

Sex

The women were significantly more certain about keeping their major choices than were the men in the sample. Sixty-one percent of the women and 53 percent of the men felt either *quite certain* or *very certain* about their choice.

Faculty

The students in the Faculty of Health Sciences were significantly more certain of keeping their major field choices than were students whose majors were affiliated with other Faculties. Those in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Administration proved to be the least certain (Table 2.3).

Table 2.3 DEGREE OF CERTAINTY OF KEEPING MAJOR CHOICE, by Faculty

FACULTY	N	Mean Degree of Certainty*	S.D.
Educational Studies	17	3.00	.84
Health Sciences	479	2.94	.81
Arts and Letters	162	2.86	.90
Engineering and Applied Sciences	283	2.85	.84
Management	158	2.84	.74
Natural Sciences and Mathematics	425	2.80	.84
Social Sciences and Administration	278	2.57	.80

*Response scale: 1=very uncertain 2=somewhat uncertain 3=quite certain 4=very certain

Although the 17 freshmen who chose majors in Educational Studies had the highest mean degree of certainty, comparisons with responses of students in other Faculties having in excess of 150 students are difficult. Students in the remaining Faculties were, on the average, moderately certain of their major field choices.

FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCED CHOICE OF MAJOR

The respondents were asked to rate the degree of importance of each of nine possible influences in choosing their major using a four-point scale ranging from not important to very important (Table 2.4). Eighty-six percent of the sample rated *Interest in the area* as very important,

Table 2.4 IMPORTANCE OF INFLUENCES IN CHOICE OF MAJOR

INFLUENCES	DEGREE OF IMPORTANCE 1 Not Important	2 Slightly Important	3 Moderately Important	4 Very Important	Mean	S.D.	Admission Group[1]	Sex[1]
Interest in the area	1%	2%	11%	86%	3.83	.47		Women
Confidence in ability to do well	2	2	19	77	3.72	.59		Women
Relevance to career plans	2	6	25	67	3.58	.69	RA	
Desire for Intellectual challenge	3	10	39	47	3.31	.78		Women
Work experience in the area	14	22	35	29	2.79	1.01	EOP	Women
Advice from counselor/ teacher	23	39	26	11	2.25	.93	EOP	
Prestige associated with the major	37	29	24	10	2.06	1.00	EOP	Men
Parents' interest or wish	43	34	16	7	1.86	.92	EOP	
Friends majoring in it	79	14	4	2	1.30	.66	EOP	Men

[1] Statistical differences between mean responses of the Regular Admissions (RA) Group and Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Group and also between Men and Women were analyzed by *t*-tests. Where significant differences existed between groups, the group with the higher mean response is noted.

and 77 percent rated *Confidence in ability to do well* as very important. The factors that were rated lowest in importance by the total group were *Friends majoring in it, Parents' interest or wish, and prestige associated with major.*

Admission Group

There was no difference between RA and EOP students in rank order of importance of the factors influencing their major choices; however, there were significant differences in the Mean ratings of importance of certain influences. The RA students considered *Relevance to career plans* more important than did the EOP students, while the EOP students attached more importance to *Work experience in the area, Advice from counselor/teacher, Prestige associated with major, Parents' interest or wish,* and *Friends majoring in it.*

Sex

The men and women ranked the influences affecting their choice of a major in the same order. However, based on the Means indicating degree of importance, the men considered *Prestige associated with major* and *Friends majoring in it* as more influential than did the women. Women rated *Interest in the area, Confidence in ability to do well, Desire for intellectual challenge* and *Work experience in the area* as more important than did the men.

CHAPTER III

DEGREE PLANS

Information was gathered about the freshmen's intentions of obtaining undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees. The group also were asked when they intended to complete their baccalaureate, and whether their baccalaureate or advanced degree would be obtained at SUNY/B.

INTENT TO OBTAIN BACCALAUREATE AND ADVANCED DEGREES

The respondents were asked to indicate whether they intended to obtain a baccalaureate, a master's degree, a doctorate, a medical degree, and a law degree. Responses for each were made on a four-option scale: *definitely not, probably not, probably will, definitely yes* (Table 3.1).

Nearly all of the freshmen intended to obtain a baccalaureate; 81 percent indicated that they definitely intended to, and 15 percent said that they probably would, while only one percent stated that they definitely did not intend to obtain a baccalaureate. The students were not as sure about a master's degree. Seventy percent indicated that they might obtain a master's; a fifth indicated that they definitely intended to, and half indicated that they probably would.

Thirty percent of the 1974 freshmen indicated their intent to acquire a doctorate; 8 percent reported they definitely expected to, and 22 percent reported they probably would obtain one. A quarter of students aspired to a medical, dental or veterinary degree; 11 percent indicated they definitely intended to obtain one of those degrees; 12 percent said they probably would. A law degree was an intended goal of 12 percent of the freshmen; 5 percent were sure of it; 7 percent thought it probable.

Table 3.1 DEFINITENESS OF INTENTIONS TO OBTAIN BACCALAUREATE AND ADVANCED DEGREES, by Admission Group and Sex

DEGREE	DEFINITENESS OF INTENTION			
	Definitely Not	Probably Not	Probably Will	Definitely Yes
BACCALAUREATE				
Admission Group				
RA	1%	2%	14%	82%
EOP	3	3	20	72
Sex				
Men	1	3	16	79
Women	2	1	14	83
Total	1	2	15	81
MASTER'S				
Admission Group				
RA	3	27	50	19
EOP	2	20	51	25
Sex				
Men	3	29	47	20
Women	4	23	52	20
Total	3	26	50	20
DOCTORATE				
Admission Group				
RA	15	55	22	7
EOP	17	47	23	10
Sex				
Men	13	52	24	10
Women	19	56	19	5
Total	16	54	22	8
MEDICAL/DENTAL/VETERINARY				
Admission Group				
RA	49	27	12	11
EOP	44	31	10	13
Sex				
Men	46	26	14	15
Women	52	30	10	7
Total	48	28	12	11
LAW				
Admission Group				
RA	58	30	8	4
EOP	53	33	5	6
Sex				
Men	48	36	9	6
Women	68	23	5	3
Total	57	30	7	5

Admission Group

Although degree expectations of EOP and RA students were quite similar, some differences were noted (Figure 3.1). A significantly larger percentage of RA students than EOP students intended to attain a bachelor's degree. Eighty-two percent of the RA and 72 percent of the EOP groups said they definitely planned to obtain a baccalaureate; 14 percent of the RA and 20 percent of the EOP said they probably would.

A larger percent of the EOP students (25%) than RA students (19%) definitely intended to obtain a master's degree. Half of each group said they probably would.

There were not significant differences in the groups' intentions to acquire a doctorate, medical or law degree.

Sex

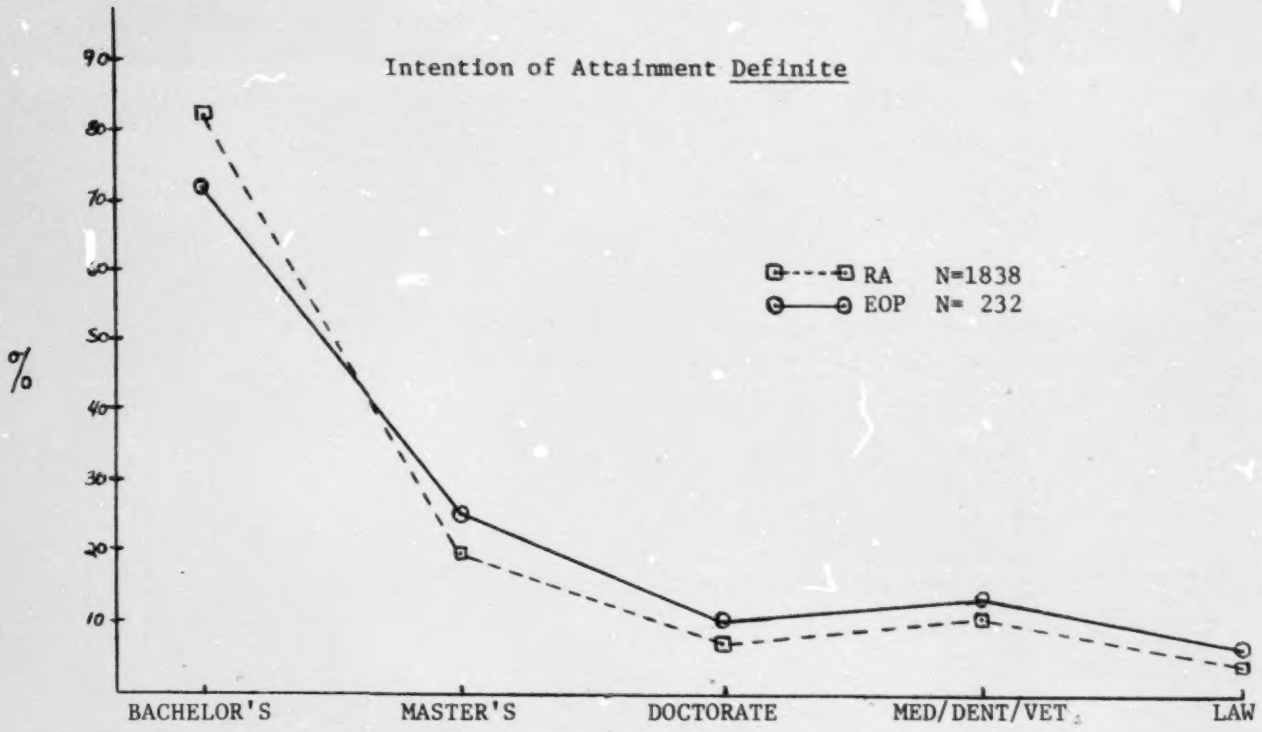
Although men and women were similar in their intentions to obtain baccalaureate and master's degrees, they differed significantly in their intentions to obtain doctorate or professional degrees (Figure 3.2). More men than women planned to obtain these advanced degrees.

Ten percent of the men and 5 percent of the women definitely intended to obtain a doctorate, while 24 percent of the men and 19 percent of the women indicated that they probably will. Concerning intent to obtain a medical, dental, or veterinary degree, 15 percent of the men and 7 percent of the women indicated that they definitely expected to, while 14 percent of the men and 10 percent of the women indicated that they probably would. Again, more men intended to acquire a law degree; 6 percent of the men and 3 percent of the women answered definitely, and 9 percent of the men and 5 percent of the women said they probably would obtain a law degree.

Faculty

Intention to obtain a baccalaureate did not differ significantly among students with majors in different Faculties. However, plans for advanced degrees were related to Faculty affiliation (Figure 3.3). Proportionately more students in the Faculties of Educational Studies (95%), Arts and Letters (78%), Social Sciences and Administration (77%) and Engineering and Applied Sciences (74%) indicated that they definitely

Figure 3.1 DEGREE PLANS, BY ADMISSION GROUP



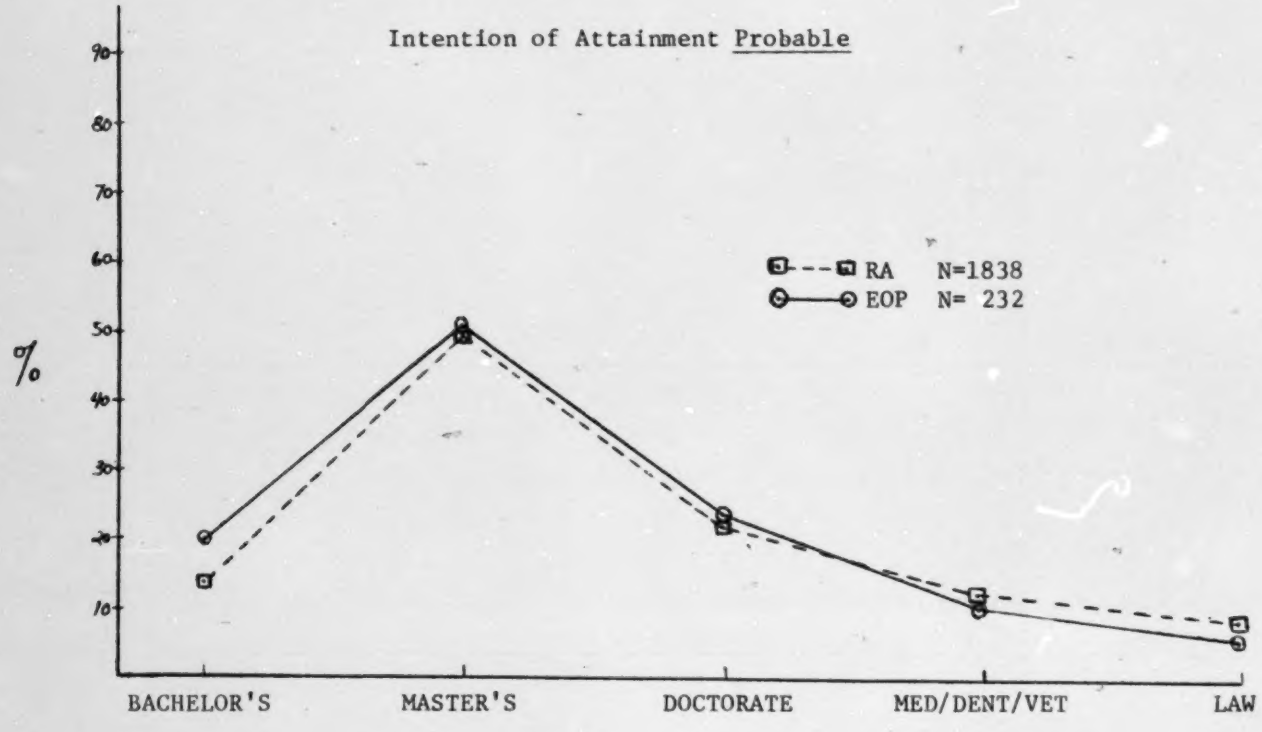
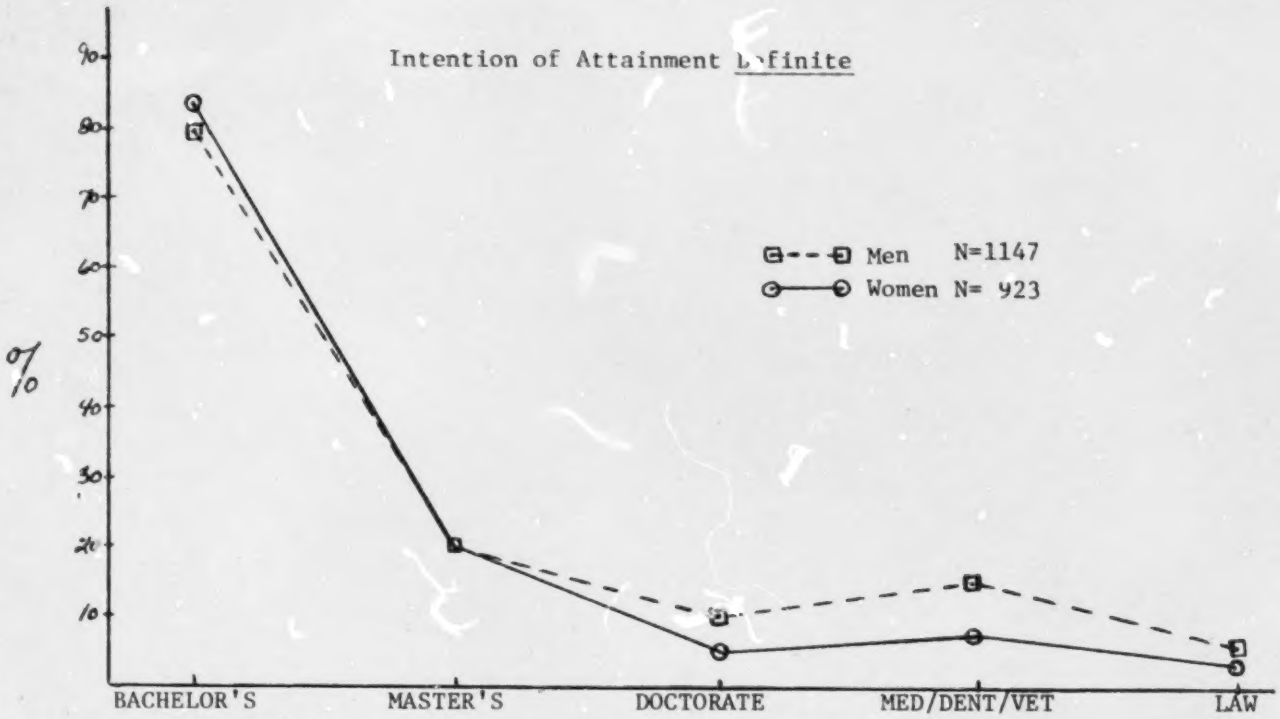


Figure 3.2 DEGREE PLANS, BY SEX



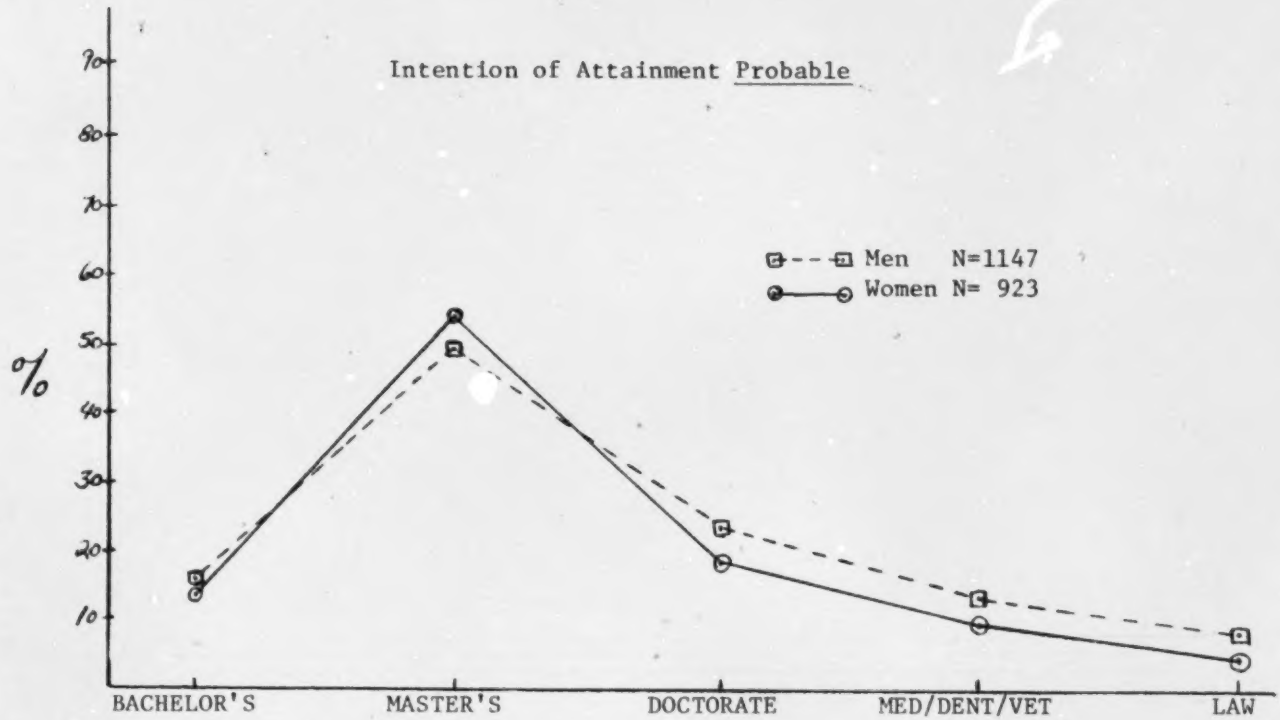
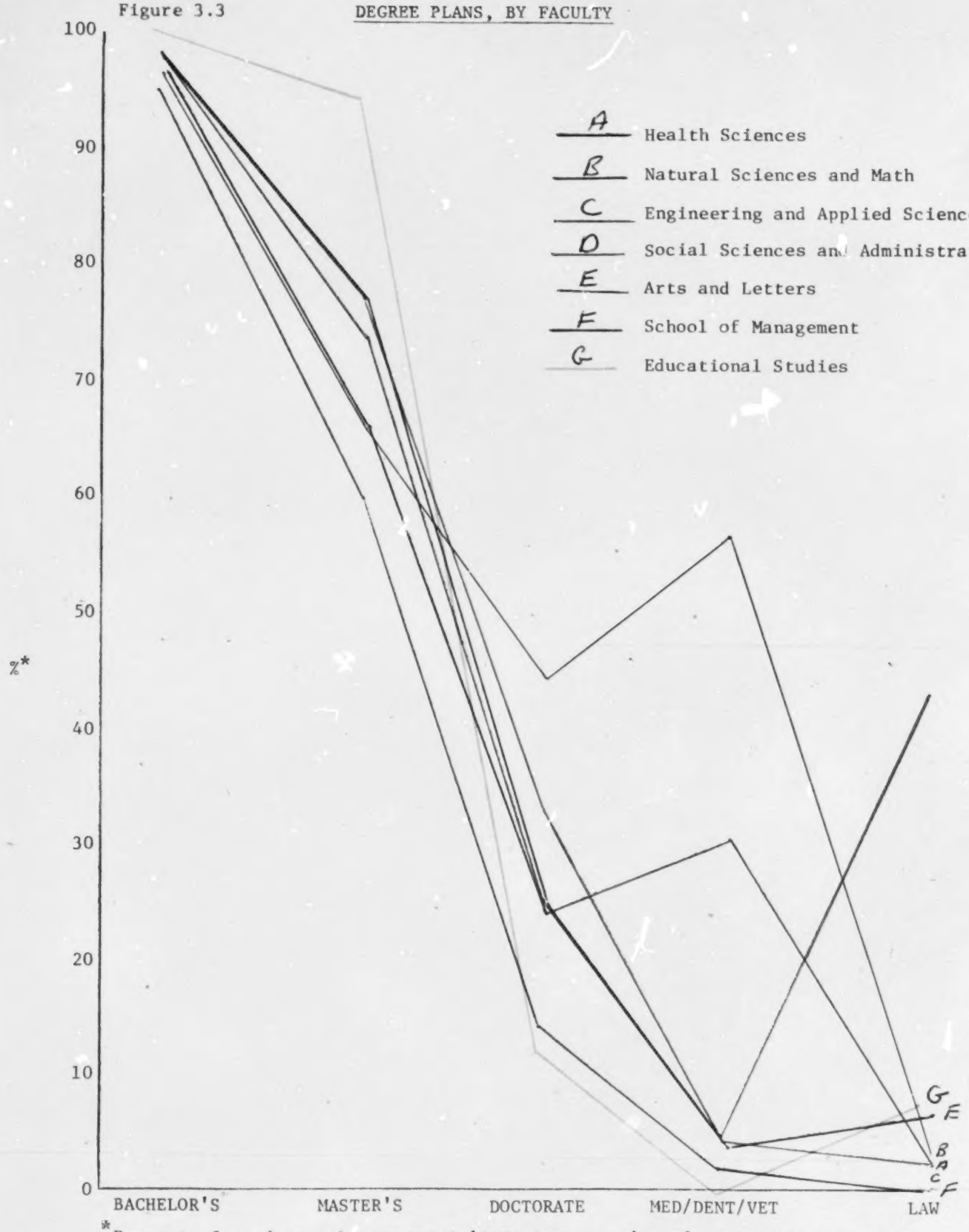


Figure 3.3 DEGREE PLANS, BY FACULTY



*Percent of students who answered 'definitely yes' or 'probably will' to obtaining each degree.

intended or probably would obtain a master's degree. While 30 percent of the sample indicated that they either probably would or definitely expected to obtain a doctorate, higher percentages of students in the Faculties of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (45%) and Social Sciences and Administration (33%) expressed this expectation.

Most of the students aspiring to obtain a medical degree expected to have majors in the Faculties of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and Health Sciences. While fewer than 5 percent of the sample reported that they definitely intended or probably would obtain a medical, dental or veterinary degree, large percentages of students in Natural Sciences and Mathematics (57%) and in the Social Sciences (31%) indicated they definitely intended or probably would obtain those degrees.

Proportionately more students in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Administration than in the other Faculties intended to obtain a law degree. Forty-three percent of the students in that Faculty reported that they either definitely intended or probably would obtain a law degree, while no more than 8 percent with majors in any other Faculty expressed similar intentions.

DEGREES FROM SUNY/B

The students were asked whether they intended to obtain baccalaureate or advanced degrees at SUNY/B. Neither sex nor admission group differences in responses were significant.

Baccalaureate

To the question, "Do you intend to obtain a baccalaureate at SUNY/B?" three-fourths of the freshmen answered *yes*, 2 percent answered *no*, and 21 percent were *not sure*. (Table 3.2).

Table 3.2 INTENT TO OBTAIN A BACCALAUREATE AT SUNY/B, by Admission Group and Sex

INTENT	ADMISSION GROUP		SEX		TOTAL
	RA	EOP	Men	Women	
	N= 1838	N= 232	N= 1147	N= 923	N= 2070
No	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%
Yes	76	68	74	78	76
I'm not sure	20	28	22	20	21
No Response	1	2	1	1	1

Faculty

Students who expected majors in the seven undergraduate Faculties differed in their intentions to obtain a baccalaureate at SUNY/B (Table 3.3).

Table 3.3 INTENT TO OBTAIN A BACCALAUREATE AT SUNY/B, by Faculty

INTENT	A&L N=160	HS N=476	NS&M N=418	SS&A N=275	ED.ST. N=17	ENG. N=281	MGMT. N=155	SPEC. N=13	UND. N=203
No	6%	1%	2%	2%	0%	2%	3%	0%	4%
Yes	66	88	78	73	88	78	76	46	61
I'm not sure	28	11	20	25	12	21	21	54	35

Eighty-eight percent of the respondents with majors in the Faculties of Health Sciences and in Educational Studies indicated they either definitely intended to or probably would get their baccalaureate degree at SUNY/B. About three-fourths of the respondents in Natural Sciences and Mathematics, in Engineering, in Management and in Social Sciences and Administration and two-thirds of those in Arts and Letters expected to obtain their baccalaureate at this University, as did three-fifths of those undecided about a major. Only 46% of the students with Special majors thought they would obtain a baccalaureate at SUNY/B.

Years to Complete Baccalaureate Study

The freshmen were asked when they intended to complete their baccalaureate study. The majority of students (72%) expected to complete it in four years, 7 percent in *less* than 4 years, 6 percent in *more* than 4 years (5 year program), 2 percent in *more* than 4 years (even though in a 4 year program), and 13 percent were not sure (Table 3.4).

Table 3.4 YEARS TO COMPLETE BACCALAUREATE STUDY, by Admission Group and Sex

	ADMISSION GROUP		SEX		TOTAL
NUMBER OF YEARS	RA N= 1838	EOP N= 232	Men N= 1147	Women N= 923	N= 2070
4 years (May or June, 1978)	74%	58%	72%	72%	72%
Less time than 4 years	6	15	7	8	7
More than 4 years (in 5 year program)	6	7	5	7	6
More than 4 years (in 4 year program)	1	3	2	1	2
Not sure	12	15	14	11	13
No response	1	2	1	1	1

Advanced Degree

Freshmen were less certain about obtaining an advanced degree than a baccalaureate. The responses to the question, "Do you intend to obtain an advanced degree at SUNY/B?"were: Yes, 23 percent, No, 12 percent, and I'm not sure,65 percent (Table 3.5).

Table 3.5 INTENT TO OBTAIN AN ADVANCED DEGREE AT SUNY/B, by Admission Group and Sex

	ADMISSION GROUP		SEX		TOTAL
INTENT	RA N= 1838	EOP N= 232	Men N= 1147	Women N=923	N= 2070
No	12%	7%	11%	13%	12%
Yes	21	35	25	20	23
I'm not sure	66	56	63	67	65
No response	1	2	1	1	1

Faculty

Concerning obtainment of an advanced degree from SUNY/B, the largest proportion (41%) of the respondents in any Faculty who indicated this intention planned majors in Educational Studies (Table 3.6).

Table 3.6 INTENT TO OBTAIN AN ADVANCED DEGREE AT SUNY/B, by Faculty

	A&L	HS	NS&M	SS&A	ES	EAS	MGMT.	SP.	UND.
INTENT	N=158	N=477	N=422	N=275	N=17	N=282	N=155	N=13	N=208
No	15%	11%	10%	10%	24%	12%	14%	23%	13%
Yes	21	22	28	27	41	19	23	15	17
I'm not sure	64	67	62	63	35	69	64	62	70

The percentage of students in the other Faculties who expected to obtain an advanced degree at SUNY/B range from 28 percent (Natural Sciences and Mathematics) to 19 percent (Engineering). Fifteen percent of the students in Special majors and 17 percent of those undecided about their major also intended to obtain an advanced degree at this University.

CHAPTER IV

CAREER

The freshmen were asked about their career choices, the certainty of their choices, and the desirability of various career characteristics.

CAREER CHOICES

From a list of 64 possible career choices the freshmen were asked to indicate their future career preferences. Table 4.1 is a list of the careers chosen by one or more percent of the total sample. The most popular choices were Engineer, Physician, Lawyer, Physical Therapist, Accountant, Pharmacist and Nurse.[1]

Table 4.1 CAREER CHOICE*

CAREER	N	%
Engineer	231	11
Physician	191	9
Lawyer	147	7
Physical Therapist	108	5
Accountant	99	5
Pharmacist	91	4
Nurse	90	4
Dentist	61	3
Medical Technician	57	3
Other Health or Medical Fields	52	3
Psychologist	48	2
Secondary School Teacher	39	2
Computer Programmer	37	2
Veterinarian	35	2
Administrator (Business, Government)	34	2
Social Worker	30	1
Biological Scientist	29	1
Architect	28	1
Occupational Therapist	28	1
Chemist	24	1
Linguist, Interpreter	24	1
Artist	20	1

*Careers chosen by less than 1% of the sample are not included. See Table A3 in the Appendix for complete data.

[1]Complete data by admission group and sex are presented in Table A.3 in the Appendix

Admission Group

Because of the wide distribution of choices across the 60 careers selected, the proportions of students who specified each career are quite small and show few notable differences across sex or admission groups. Three differences of interest in choices of the two admissions groups are the greater proportions of RA than EOP freshmen who chose careers as Engineers (12% RA, 3% EOP) and Physicians (10% RA, 4% EOP) and the larger proportion of EOP than RA students who chose careers as Nurses (12% EOP, 3% RA).

The largest proportions of Regular Admission students chose careers as Engineers (12%), Physicians (10%), Lawyers (8%), Physical Therapists (5%), or Accountants (5%). The most popular career choices among the EOP students were Nurse (12%), Accountant (6%), Pharmacist (6%), Physical Therapist (5%), Lawyer (4%) and Physician (4%).

Twelve percent of the RA and 13 percent of the EOP groups were uncertain of a career choice. Three percent of the RA and 9 percent of the EOP students did not respond to the item.

Sex

Again, because of the small percentage of students specifying each career choice, few notable differences in the proportions of men and women choosing each career were noted. Those differences of interest in selection by sex group were the greater proportion of men than women who chose careers as Engineers (18% men, 2% women) and Lawyers (9% men, 4% women). More women than men said they preferred a career as a Physical Therapist (11% women, 1% men) or a Nurse (9% women, <1% men).

The greatest proportions of men chose careers as Engineers (18%), Physicians (12%), Lawyers (9%), Accountants (6%), or Dentists (4%). Women's most popular career choices were: Physical Therapist (11%), Physician (6%), Medical Technologist (5%), Pharmacist (5%), and Lawyer (4%). Twelve percent of the men and 11 percent of the women were undecided about their career choice. Four percent of the men and 4 percent of the women gave no response to the question.

CERTAINTY OF CAREER CHOICE

Those freshmen who indicated a career choice were asked how certain they were that they would keep their choice. The options were *very uncertain, somewhat uncertain, quite certain, very certain.* Respondents who answered undecided about a career preference (12%) were instructed to omit the question about certainty.

Half of the sample were *quite certain* or *very certain* about their career choice, 29 percent were *somewhat* or *very uncertain*, and 19 percent gave no response (Table 4.2).

There were no significant differences between RA and EOP students or men or women in their degree of certainty of keeping their career choices.

Table 4.2 CERTAINTY OF CAREER CHOICE, By Admission Group and Sex

	ADMISSION GROUP		SEX		TOTAL
DEGREE OF CERTAINTY	RA N= 1838	EOP N= 232	Men N= 1147	Woman N= 923	N= 2070
Very uncertain	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%
Somewhat uncertain	23	12	21	21	22
Quite certain	37	24	37	37	36
Very certain	15	27	17	17	16
No Response	18	30	20	19	19

Sample Mean = 2.8, S.D. = .88

DESIRABILITY OF SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF A CAREER

The freshmen were asked to rate the desirability of each of 17 listed aspects of a job or career as *Very Undesirable, Somewhat Undesirable, It Doesn't Matter, Desirable but not Essential* or *Essential.* Results are reported in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3 DESIRABILITY OF SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF A JOB OR CAREER

Aspects of a job or career	DEGREE OF DESIRABILITY: Very Undesirable	Somewhat Undesirable	It Doesn't Matter	Desirable Not Essential	Essential	MEAN	S.D.	ADMISSION* GROUP	SEX*
Opportunity to use abilities or talents fully	1	2	3	4	5				
Stimulation/Challenge	2%	1%	4%	24%	69%	4.58	.78		
Opportunity to contribute to the welfare of others	2	2	5	29	62	4.48	.85	RA	
Working with people	2	1	8	34	55	4.39	.83		Women
Friendly associates	2	3	13	32	49	4.24	.94		Women
Pleasant physical surroundings	2	1	8	52	37	4.19	.82	RA	
Opportunity to be creative	2	1	14	61	23	4.02	.75		
Opportunity to meet people with whom you might interact socially outside of work	3	3	20	38	35	4.01	.96		
Opportunity to initiate programs or projects	2	1	19	58	20	3.93	.77		
Income enough to live in luxury	2	4	25	48	22	3.84	.87		
Working with little supervision	2	3	21	61	13	3.80	.78		Men
Opportunity to lead or direct others	2	4	25	52	17	3.77	.85		Men
Regular working hours	2	5	33	46	14	3.66	.85		
Prestige	5	10	21	51	13	3.57	1.00		Women
Travel (part of job)	5	5	41	43	6	3.41	.86		Men
Working with inanimate things (objects, equipment, minerals, numbers, etc.)	7	18	40	31	3	3.05	.95		
Working with animate things other than people (plants, fish, etc.)	15	17	40	18	9	2.81	1.02		Men
	12	23	43	17	5	2.81	1.02		

* The group who rated the aspect significantly higher than the other group is noted.

Opportunities to use abilities or talents fully was rated as the most desirable aspect of a future job; 93 percent of the sample considered it either essential or desirable to a career. Five other job or career characteristics rated as essential or desirable by more than 80 percent of the sample were *Stimulation/Challenge, Opportunity to contribute to the welfare of others, Working with people, Friendly associates and Pleasant physical surroundings.*

Eight aspects were considered essential or desirable by more than one-half but fewer than three-fourths of the sample. They were: *Opportunity to be creative, Opportunity to meet people with whom you might interact socially outside of work, Opportunity to initiate programs or projects, Income enough to live in luxury, Working with little supervision, Opportunity to lead or direct others, Regular working hours,* and *Prestige.*

Fewer than a third of the freshmen said that *Travel as part of the job, working with inanimate things,* or *Working with animate things other than people* was an essential or desirable aspect of a job.

Admission Group

Most aspects of a career were rated similarly by the RA and EOP students. However, the Regular Admissions group rated *Stimulation/Challenge* and *Friendly Associates* as significantly more important than did the EOP group.

Sex

The freshmen men and women ranked most career aspects similarly. However, *Opportunity to contribute to the welfare of others, Working with people,* and *Regular working hours* were rated more desirable by women than by men, while *Income enough to live in luxury, Working with little supervision, Prestige,* and *Working with inanimate things were considered significantly more desirable by men than by women in the sample.*

SUMMARY

The 2070 freshmen who completed the 1974 CSPS represent 89 percent of the students entering SUNY/B as freshmen in the fall of 1974. Fifty-five percent of the sample were men and 45 percent were women. By admission group, the sample was composed of 89 percent regular admission (RA) students and 11 percent Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) students.

The largest proportion (23%) of the 1974 freshmen chose majors in the Faculty of Health Sciences. Twenty-one percent chose majors in the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, 14 percent in Engineering and Applied Sciences, 13 percent in Social Sciences and Administration, 8 percent in Arts and Letters, 8 percent in the School of Management and one percent in Educational Studies. One percent chose Special majors. Ten percent of the freshman sample were undecided as to their major field choice and 2 percent did not response.

A greater proportion of men than women chose majors in Natural Sciences and Mathematics and Engineering and Applied Sciences, while more women than men chose majors in Health Sciences and Arts and Letters. Health Sciences was the most popular Faculty of both admission groups. Natural Sciences and Mathematics was the next most popular Faculty among regular admission group students while Social Sciences and Administration was the second most popular Faculty among EOP students.

The freshman women were significantly more certain of their major field choice than were the men. Students in the Faculties of Educational Studies and Health Sciences were more certain than students in other Faculties about their major field choices; students in Social Sciences and Administration were the least certain.

The freshmen indicated that the most important factors influencing their choice of majors were: *Interest in the area, Confidence in their ability to do well in it* and its *Relevance to their career plans.*

Nearly all of the 1974 freshmen indicated that they intended to obtain a baccalaureate. Seventy percent said they definitely or probably would obtain a master's degree, 30 percent a doctorate, 25 percent a medical, dental or veterinary degree, and 12 percent a law degree.

A significantly larger percentage of RA than EOP students intended to obtain a bachelor's degree. A larger percentage of EOP than RA students aspired to a master's degree. Although men and women were similar in their intentions to obtain a bachelor's and a master's degree, they differed significantly in their intentions to obtain doctorates or professional degrees. More men than women planned to obtain these advanced degrees.

Proportionately more students in the Faculties of Educational Studies (95%), Arts and Letters (78%), Social Sciences and Administration (77%) and Engineering and Applied Sciences (74%) intended to obtain a master's degree. Higher percentages of students in the Faculties of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (45%) and Social Sciences and Administration (33%) expected to obtain a doctorate. While fewer than 5 percent of the sample felt they would obtain a medical, dental or veterinary degree, large percentages of students in Natural Sciences and Mathematics (57%) and in the Social Sciences (31%) indicated they would. Forty-three percent of the students in the Social Sciences intended to obtain a law degree while no more than 8 percent with majors in other Faculties expressed similar intentions.

About three-quarters of the freshman sample intended to obtain a baccalaureate, and one-quarter, an advanced degree at SUNY/B. Seventy-two percent of the sample intended to complete their baccalaureate studies in four years.

The most popular career choices among the 1974 freshman sample were Engineer (11%), Physician (9%), Lawyer (7%), Physical Therapist (5%), Accountant (5%), Pharmacist (4%), and Nurse (4%). Larger percentages of EOP than RA students expected careers as nurses and pharmacists while larger proportions of RA students chose careers as engineers, physicians and lawyers. Careers as engineers, physicians, lawyers and accountants were the most popular among men; women most frequently chose careers in physical therapy, medical technology and pharmacy.

One half of the freshman sample felt quite or very certain about their career choices. Over 80 percent rated the following job characteristics as essential or desirable to a career: *Opportunity to use your abilities or talents fully, Stimulation/Challenge, Opportunity to contribute to the welfare of others, Working with people, Friendly associates, and Pleasant physical surroundings.*

APPENDIX

Table A.1 MAJOR FIELD CHOICE, by Sex and Admission Group

MAJOR FIELD	ADMISSION GROUP		SEX		TOTAL
	RA	EOP	Men	Women	
	N=1838	N=232	N=1147	N=923	N=2070
Arts & Letters					
American Studies	5	3	4	4	8
Architecture & Environmental Design	24	3	20	7	27
Art (art history, studio art, art education, fine art)	26	8	6	28	34
Classics	2	0	2	0	2
English	27	2	11	18	29
French	7	1	1	7	8
German	2	1	1	2	3
Italian	0	1	0	1	1
Music (music education, history, performance)	30	2	13	19	32
Russian	5	0	2	3	5
Spanish	8	1	0	9	9
Theater (drama)	4	0	2	2	4
Total	140	22	62	100	162
Total %	7.6%	9.5%	5.4%	10.8%	7.8%
Educational Studies					
Education (business, elementary, physical, science)	14	3	6	11	17
Total %	.8%	1.3%	.5%	1.2%	.8%
Engineering & Applied Sciences					
Engineering	272	11	256	27	283
Total %	14.8%	4.7%	22.3%	2.9%	13.7%
Health Sciences					
Biochemical Pharmacology	4	0	4	0	4
Biochemistry	39	2	25	16	41
Health Science Education	12	3	5	10	15
Medical Technology	60	7	16	51	67
Medicinal Chemistry	19	3	14	8	22
Nursing	65	28	2	91	93
Occupational Therapy	25	5	1	29	30
Pharmaceutics	5	0	3	2	5
Pharmacy	75	13	47	41	88
Physical Therapy	101	13	13	101	114
Total	405	74	130	349	479
Total %	22.0%	31.9%	11.3%	37.8%	23.1%

Table A.1 MAJOR FIELD CHOICE (cont'd.)

MAJOR FIELD	ADMISSION GROUP		SEX		TOTAL
	RA N=1838	EOP N=232	Men N=1147	Women N=923	N=2070
Natural Sciences & Mathematics					
Biology	250	12	180	82	262
Chemistry	42	1	33	10	43
Computer Science	38	2	32	8	40
Geological Sciences	3	0	2	1	3
Mathematics	42	1	23	20	43
Mathematics-Economics	5	0	4	1	5
Physics and Astronomy	14	1	12	3	15
Statistics	14	0	12	2	14
Total	408	17	298	127	425
Total %	22.2%	7.3%	26.0%	13.8%	20.5%
Social Sciences & Administration					
Anthropology	3	0	1	2	3
Black Studies	0	0	0	0	0
Economics	12	1	8	5	13
Geography	2	0	1	1	2
History	26	1	15	12	27
Linguistics	2	2	0	4	4
Philosophy	2	1	2	1	3
Political Science	90	8	71	27	98
Psychology	56	11	28	39	67
Social Work	15	6	2	19	21
Sociology	12	2	6	8	14
Speech Communication (speech communication, education, pathology)	23	3	5	21	26
Total	243	35	139	139	278
Total %	13.2%	15.1%	12.1%	15.1%	13.4%
School of Management					
Management	136	22	103	55	158
Total %	7.4%	9.5%	9.0%	6.0%	7.6%
Other					
Special	10	3	3	10	13
Total %	.5%	1.3%	.3%	1.1%	.6%
Undecided	179	31	124	86	210
Total %	9.7%	13.4%	10.8%	9.3%	10.1%
No Response	31	14	26	19	45
Total %	1.7%	6.0%	2.3%	2.1%	2.2%

Table A.2 Advanced Degree Plans, by Faculty

	BACHELOR'S				MASTER'S				DOCTORATE				MED/DENT/VET				LAW			
	Probably Will		Definitely Yes		Probably Will		Definitely Yes		Probably Will		Definitely Yes		Probably Will		Definitely Yes		Probably Will		Definitely Yes	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	F	N	%	N	%
Arts & Letters	33	20	125	78	77	48	47	29	31	19	9	6	3	2	4	2	8	5	3	2
Health Sciences	59	12	400	84	233	49	79	17	84	18	32	7	80	17	66	14	6	1	3	1
Natural Sciences & Mathematics	55	13	346	83	165	39	113	27	127	30	64	15	111	27	125	30	7	2	4	1
Social Sciences & Administration	39	14	229	84	145	53	67	24	70	26	19	7	7	3	5	2	60	22	58	21
Educational Studies	2	12	15	88	14	82	2	12	2	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	0
Engineering & Applied Sciences	35	12	242	86	170	60	39	14	61	22	11	4	8	3	5	2	7	2	3	1
School of Management	25	16	123	79	66	43	27	17	19	12	3	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE A.3 CAREER CHOICES, by Admission Group and Sex

CAREER CHOICE	ADMISSION GROUP				SEX				TOTAL	
	RA		EOP		Men		Women			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Accountant, actuary	85	5	14	6	64	6	35	4	99	5
Actor, stage director, some aspect of theater	7	<1	0	0	3	<1	4	<1	7	<1
Administrator - business, government	26	1	8	3	18	2	16	2	34	2
Administrator - education, health	1	<1	1	<1	1	<1	1	<1	2	<1
Anthropologist, archeologist	2	<1	0	0	1	<1	1	<1	2	<1
Architect	25	1	3	1	22	2	6	1	28	1
Artist	18	1	2	1	3	<1	17	2	20	1
Athlete, coach, trainer	3	<1	2	1	3	<1	2	<1	5	<1
Banker, financial analyst	8	<1	0	0	8	1	0	0	8	<1
Biological scientist	27	2	2	1	17	2	12	1	29	1
Business - salesperson, buyer	5	<1	3	1	6	1	2	<1	8	<1
Chemist	24	1	0	0	19	2	5	1	24	1
Clergy, missionary, theologian	1	<1	0	0	1	<1	0	0	1	<1
Communications (radio, TV, etc.)	10	1	4	2	6	1	8	1	14	1
Computer programmer, systems analyst	36	2	1	<1	28	2	9	1	37	2
Counselor - guidance, marriage, vocational	4	<1	1	<1	1	<1	4	<1	5	<1
Dentist	56	3	5	2	50	<4	11	1	61	3
Dietician, home economist	2	<1	0	0	1	<1	1	<1	2	<1
Diplomat, foreign service worker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ecologist	9	1	0	0	6	1	3	<1	9	<1
Economist	6	<1	0	0	4	<1	2	<1	6	<1
Engineer	223	12	8	3	211	18	20	2	231	11
Farmer, rancher, natural resource conservationist	4	<1	0	0	2	<1	2	<1	4	<1

TABLE A.3 CAREER CHOICES (cont'd.)

CAREER CHOICE	ADMISSION GROUP				SEX				TOTAL	
	RA		EOP		Men		Women			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Geographer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Geologist	2	<1	0	0	2	<1	0	0	2	<1
Government service	1	<1	0	0	1	<1	0	0	1	<1
Health or medical field (not elsewhere listed)	45	2	7	3	21	2	31	3	52	3
Homemaker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interior decorator, designer, window-dresser	1	<1	0	0	1	<1	0	0	1	<1
Inventor	1	<1	2	1	2	<1	1	<1	3	<1
Language interpreter, translator, linquist	23	1	1	<1	4	<1	20	2	24	1
Law enforcement officer	4	<1	1	<1	3	<1	2	<1	5	<1
Lawyer	137	8	10	4	107	9	40	4	147	7
Librarian	1	<1	0	0	0	0	1	<1	1	<1
Mathematician	14	1	0	0	6	1	8	1	14	1
Medical technician, technologist	49	3	8	3	12	1	45	5	57	3
Military officer	1	<1	1	<1	2	<1	0	0	2	<1
Musician	15	1	1	<1	8	1	8	1	16	1
Nurse	63	3	27	12	3	<1	87	9	90	4
Occupational therapist	25	1	3	1	0	0	28	3	28	1
Personnel manager, industrial relations	8	<1	0	0	5	<1	3	<1	8	<1
Pharmacist	77	4	14	6	46	4	45	5	91	4
Philosopher	0	0	1	<1	1	<1	0	0	1	<1
Physical therapist	96	5	12	5	11	1	97	11	108	5
Physician (general or specialist)	181	10	10	4	137	12	54	6	191	9
Physicist, astronomer	11	<1	0	0	9	1	2	<1	11	<1
Pilot	1	<1	0	0	0	0	1	<1	1	<1

TABLE A.3 CAREER CHOICES (cont'd.)

CAREER CHOICE	ADMISSION GROUP				SEX				TOTAL	
	RA		EOP		Men		Women			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Politician	6	<1	1	<1	6	1	1	<1	7	<1
Psychologist	43	2	5	2	18	2	30	3	48	2
Publisher, editor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Researcher	16	1	0	0	8	1	8	1	16	1
Secretary, office worker	0	0	1	<1	0	0	1	<1	1	<1
Skilled craftsman	1	<1	0	0	1	<1	0	0	1	<1
Social worker	23	1	7	3	6	1	24	3	30	1
Sociologist	1	<1	2	1	1	<1	2	<1	3	<1
Speech therapist or pathologist; audiologist	18	1	0	0	0	0	18	2	18	1
Statistician	8	<1	0	0	8	1	0	0	8	<1
Teacher - special education	7	<1	1	<1	1	<1	7	1	8	<1
Teacher - elementary	4	<1	0	0	1	<1	3	<1	4	<1
Teacher - secondary	33	2	6	3	14	1	25	3	39	2
Teacher - college or university	9	1	2	1	3	<1	8	1	11	1
Technician - electronics, laboratory	11	1	0	0	9	1	2	<1	11	1
Veterinarian	34	2	1	<1	25	2	10	1	35	2
Writer	14	1	1	<1	6	1	9	1	15	1
Undecided	212	12	31	13	142	12	101	11	243	12
No Response	60	3	22	9	42	4	40	4	82	4
TOTAL	1838	100	232	100	1147	100	923	100	2070	100